Trains: The transport of the future

There are a lot of different methods of transportation, like cars, planes, boats, trains, bikes, PMVs and more. For me, trains are fascinating, you don’t have to wait a lot of time as when traveling by plane or by boat. It’s just as taking a cab or a shared car. And, last but not least, trains are comfortable, no bumps, smooth and you can take your laptop or have a drink in the meantime as well.

Why trains are awesome?

To decide which is the best, let’s put some topics on the table. Let’s start with reservation: Buying a plane ticket is a similar experience as buying a train ticket. The difference is the luggage and all the “premium” or classes options. Trains are more simple, you usually have the basic ticket, the basic ticket plus the option to choose seat and a premium option with better seat and a nice table. With planes you have economy class, a premium or business class, which is basically economy class but with better seats and then, first class, that varies significantly between airlines. Now, let’s think about price. Planes are usually more expensive, but in general, planes travel a far distance than trains, even though some trains are long distance like in Germany or the high speed trains in Spain for instance. And oh lord, waiting time. Traveling by plane takes so long to setup. You arrive to the airport, pass the security checkpoint, wait until you get the gate, make the queue, board the plane which is terrible, wait until everyone is seated, the pilots start and prepare the airplane, wait for taxi, taxi, get to the runway and takeoff. With trains is pretty simple, you get to the train station, wait until you get the platform number, and you should be able to sit there on your seat. There is not that many protocols. And there are “no checks”. Once you are there and the time arrives, the train starts moving. It’s a really smooth experience in my opinion.

How can they evolve?

Well, the key would be speed and the train stations. Not all trains are high-speed trains and not all train stations are perfect. Regarding train stations, it would be good that they would look similar to airports, plenty of stores, cafes, stores and lounges, which is what I miss sometimes, nice lounges where you can relax, charge your stuff and have a drink without the noise of people and ads. If you read my post about spaceports I would like something similar here, nice amenities and services and a sort of universal pass or membership that give you clearance to access X zones and X lounges. And if you pay or travel a lot you get more benefits. And of course that does not mean that if you don’t take the train a lot you should pay tons of money, just that who uses trains, has more benefits. In that way cars can be less used and purchased and they are not efficient at all.